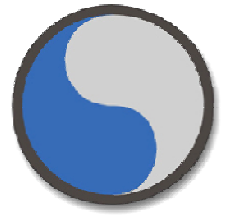




THE STONEWALL



Vol. 1 Issue 7

March 1, 2008

Iraq/Kuwait



3rd Platoon, A Company, 3-116 Infantry poses for a picture with the Lt. Col. John M. Epperly, 3-116 Battalion Commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Alan M. Ferris before leaving Fallujah for the return trip to Al Taqaddum, Iraq.

To Fallujah and back

Alpha Company has near miss with IED

**Story and Photos by
Sgt. David A. Begley**

AL TAQADDUM, Iraq—It was already dark when I arrived at the “basketball court”.

The soldiers of A Company 3-116 Infantry were preparing their vehicles for the upcoming convoy they would be running that night. They would be protecting the Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) trucks that rumble across the cold, dusty, dark, moonlit roads of Iraq.

The place is Al Taqaddum or “TQ” as it’s commonly known. A sprawling airbase once occupied by the Iraqi military and now by A Company as

well as other American forces, mainly Marines.

It’s 7:30 p.m., but the soldiers of A Company have been busy since just after evening chow. Moving to a safe place so as not to be run over by one of these monster vehicles I can see shadowy figures moving here and there.

There are small groups of men standing near the hatch of an ASV smoking and talking. The soft yellow interior lights of the ASV silhouetting them. Soldiers pass me alone and in pairs moving with a purpose. There is work to be done. Their equipment is being loaded into a Humvee.

Another soldier works the radio. Voices can be heard coming from speakers in several vehicles as radio checks are made. Communication is critical, no one leaves the wire without it. Then the engines are started.

Headlights are beaming out across the open desert. Cigarettes are extinguished as soldiers begin to “saddle up”, body armor, eye protection, gloves. A soldier approaches me, heavily backlit preventing me from seeing his face or rank. “You’ll be riding in that vehicle there”, pointing to an ASV to my front which I would later discover was named by its crew, “Hello kitty”. He turns and leads me



Pfc. Brian Jette stands in the gunners hatch making final preparations before the convoy begins the trip back to Al Taqaddum.

to the open hatch and the dimly lit interior.

I can now just make out the seat in the semi-darkness. And sure enough it's roughly the equivalent of the right side rear passenger seat in any civilian vehicle only this isn't any civilian vehicle.

But my seat, is a nicely padded one and very comfortable looking with more leg room than any full size SUV I'd ever ridden in. As I begin loading my gear through the hatch I'm introduced to the crew.

There's the driver, Spc. Deon Loucks, Gunner Pfc. Brian Jette both from 3rd Platoon, 1st Squad and the truck commander (TC) for this mission, Lt. Col. John M. Epperly our battalion commander. It's time to get moving as we each climb in. Loucks starts the engine and we each don our headsets.

Jette crawls into the gunners hatch and begins a series of function checks on both equipment and weapon systems. The TC asks for and receives an "up" from each of us, Loucks puts the engine in gear and with a slight jerk we are rolling.

Around us engine's rev as one by one these huge armored beasts begin moving. Others are arriving from the fuel point. And then as if a silent sig-

nal had sounded, each vehicle begins to move, finding its place in the herd. Almost immediately Epperly begins a friendly dialog with Louks and Jette which lasts, on and off, the entire trip.

All of us having headsets I remained quiet most of the trip but listened intently to the exchanges between the three of them and with the exception of an occasional "Sir" here and there you wouldn't have known we had a lieutenant colonel riding with us.

A short drive takes us to the "marshalling yard". Nothing more than another huge open section of desert where we will stage our vehicles with the long line of KBR tractor trailers we are tasked with protecting on this run. We park and dismount to wait.

Headlights can be seen in the distance as they begin arriving and within a few minutes the "yard" looks like a huge circle of wagons from a western movie, only these wagons are all generally pointing inward instead of out. Small groups of soldiers stand here and there talking and smoking. Even the nonsmokers appear to be puffing as their breath issues like small clouds in the chilly night air.

Some in Army Combat Uniforms, with either patrol caps, helmets or watch caps; others in the new, brown Army "tanker style" jump suits. Holster belts tilted and slung low cowboy style. Black fleece tops, black and green gloves, turtlenecks and gortex jackets are the assortment of cold weather gear donned by the soldiers.

As the start time draws near, everyone begins to move to what I can only assume is the spot always used for the mandatory safety briefing required prior to all convoys.

The group draws into a loose semi-circle as the convoy commander, SSgt. Shiner, begins the briefing. He refers to a single sheet of paper but it's clear he has done this many times and knows the routine well.

Within a few minutes the group had dispersed and we began loading up again. The movement from the marshalling yard is short and very organized.

It's amazing how such a large number of vehicles can coordinate a

movement of that size so smoothly that riding in the back with very little visibility as I was, felt as if we were the only vehicle in the convoy. As we approached the "wire", or perimeter of the post, each vehicle TC radio's the convoy commander advising him that his gunner has, or is about to, go to an elevated weapon system status.

Prior to reaching the wire, Jette has readied his weapons and waits for the green light from TC Epperly to make the change. Once he receives it, the sound of metal working on metal can be heard over the engine as Jette quickly readies the M2 .50-caliber machine gun, M240 Bravo .556-caliber machine gun and the Mark 19 automatic grenade launcher.

Announcing his new condition Epperly relays it to the convoy commander. Except for the mechanical whine of the motor, which traversed Jette's turret, there was an almost audible moment of silence. While staying in his sector of fire, he worked the controls quickly and efficiently, 10 degrees left then 15 right, now 20 left, 10 more left then 30 right, all the while scanning the darkness through his night vision scope. We were outside the wire now. For the next four hours Jette worked the controls of his turret like a man possessed. Constantly traversing and never taking his eyes away from his scope. I was impressed by his ability, and that of our driver and TC, to maintain such a high level of performance and attention. The hours passed without incident. My three crew members talking about the deployment, getting back home, girlfriends, parents and whatever came to mind.

The 1st vehicle, or "rat" as it is called, runs ahead of the lead vehicle in order to search for IED's or any other suspicious activity. Over the radio every several minutes the "rat" could be heard announcing, "Fresh dirt pile, right side of road, push left", or, "dead animal, left side, push right".

On one or two occasions a vehicle approaching was announced and orders were given to specific gun trucks to fire flares in its direction in order to persuade the occupants to choose another direction of travel or



Spc. Deon Loucks, Lt. Col. John M. Epperly and Pfc. Brian Jette stand in front of their LMTV "Hello Kitty" for a picture before heading back to Al Taqaddum.

just plain "get the hell out of the way" as Jette put it.

We arrived at our destination, FOB X (forward operating base) I'll call it, Fallujah in the early morning. The KBR trucks split off from us to unload their cargo while we staged our vehicles at the chow hall and had breakfast.

We missed our window for the return trip to TQ and were required to spend that day on the FOB. Our convoy commander had arranged billeting for us in nearby transient tents and by 7:00 a.m. we had staged, locked our vehicles and were getting settled in a large tent with several dozen cots.

After a four hour convoy, as uneventful as it was, and then several more hours restaging in anticipation

of a return trip only to be told it wasn't possible, I was exhausted. I'm sure I was fast asleep within minutes of my head hitting the pillow.

By 4:30 p.m. we were up and at our vehicles again. Loading equipment and preparing for the return trip to TQ. By 6:00 p.m. we were in another marshalling yard before the first of many KBR rigs began arriving. Another safety briefing by our experienced convoy commander and we were crossing the wire and on our way.

This time however we would be taking a longer route home. One that, according to Jette and Loukes, if traffic tie-ups occurred, as they always seemed to might take us in excess of seven hours. I settled in for what I expected to be a long and

hopefully uneventful ride.

Again, we receive the usual and oddly comforting announcements over our radio from "rat" regarding this obstacle or that suspicious object up ahead with instructions for safely avoiding them. Listening to my three crewmembers reminisce about home.

What each planned to do once he got home and now and again a funny or tense account of an incident from a previous convoy. And the continuous mechanical whine as Jette worked the controls directing his turret this way and that. Time seemed to pass quickly, it was nearing midnight. Then a curious although somewhat common incident occurred.

As we approached a section of road



Spc. Dean Loucks and Pfc. Brian Jette posing atop the “Hello Kitty,” just prior to “mounting up” for the long convoy back to Al Taqaddum.

known to be frequented by “oil smugglers”, one of the gun trucks ahead of us announced he had spotted two stationary vehicles to our right sitting on a parallel road some distance from the road we were traveling.

Orders were given, and a flare was shot in their general direction. I don’t know whether the vehicles dispersed or not as I wasn’t able to see much through the three inch by six inch window on my side of the vehicle,

but the convoy continued on without incident and although Jette was certain we would get bogged down by heavy convoy traffic and turn an otherwise short ride into seven or more hours, we arrived at TQ a little after midnight and went straight to the motor pool to park and offload our vehicles.

I’m sure everyone was tired but no one looked as exhausted as I felt and I hadn’t done a thing but sit through

it. As I walked through the dark passed the now empty basketball court, headed back to my “can”, the six foot by eight foot section of connex containers the soldiers here call home, I imagined myself doing this day in and day out.

How it must feel to travel so far, risk so much and escape death or injury only to return and have the feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction of a job well done overshadowed by the reality that I would have to do it all over again tomorrow. What a challenge that must be for these troops.

The following evening the members of 3rd Platoon had a meeting. They call it a rock drill, a preparation for the next day’s convoy. Everything is covered, nothing is omitted.

SSgt. Anderson, our assistant convoy commander from the previous night, was leading the convoy this time. In the center sat a soldier behind a small table controlling the power point presentation being given by Anderson.

I was moving around the room taking a few pictures, not paying much attention to the briefing, until Anderson said something that caught my attention as I seated myself next to Louke.

On my left stood Jette. “At 0950,” (9:50 a.m.) he said, “the 316th conducted a logistical patrol on route X. Along their route a 122mm artillery round approximately 20 meters from the road exploded between two, third country national, (TCN) trucks. No injuries or damage.”

Heads turned to look at the man to the left or right.” At first I didn’t make the connection but I was alone. An audible “Dammit!” was heard across the room. Others began grumbling. “EOD report said” he went on to say “The detonator was probably a long range remote controlled device”. I was still trying to wrap my mind around the fact that I had been on that road just ten hours before the explosion. “I knew it,” one of them said. “Yeah me too,” said the other shaking his head. 🌐

One tough fight



Story and Photo By Sgt. David A. Begley

Sgt. April Samek, B Company, 3-116th Infantry, is one of those hard charging “cant get enough of Army life” types you meet from time to time. So when she found out she might be faced with a battle against cancer she decided to treat it like she had everything else in her career, head on.

Initially she was assigned to F Company, 429th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, headed for Kuwait, during the train up at Camp Shelby, Ms., but she wasn't satisfied with that. Samek wanted an Iraq mission.

After discussions with her chain of command and a lot of waiting and hoping, the opportunity presented itself on the last day of the ARTEP exercise. She would be transferred to Bravo Company and conduct missions in Iraq.

“Two days before we left Shelby I was transferred to Bravo Company but to the maintenance detachment” she said. “The first month was pretty awkward not knowing anyone but the company welcomed me with open arms”.

Her continued determination again

paid off when after only a week she was transferred from the maintenance section to a line platoon.

“Right where I wanted to be” she said. Wanting to make the most of her situation, she asked for and was assigned a gun truck as a 240 gunner. “I was a gunner for the next two months” she said “and then a Truck Commander (TC) for a month”.

She was set or so it seemed until one night just before Halloween in her Commercial Housing Unit (CHU) while brushing her hair before bed she noticed a lump at the base of her neck.

“I waited a month and a half for the missions to slow down before going to the TMC” she said, “but 1Lt. Jackson, my platoon leader, pushed me to go.” A CT scan confirmed what she already knew. She had a lump in her throat. A biopsy was recommended but the doctors decided since results would take six weeks to get back, Samek would be flown to Landstuhl, Germany.

“I received the best service I've ever had in my life” Samek said. “The Doctors were great.” Samek spent the next month in Germany and had the first of two biopsies.


Samek was then flown to Walter Reed Army Hospital. “When they told me I was being sent to the states I was heartbroken” she said. “I thought I was done.”

Samek had the second biopsy and also had the lump aspirated. Three days later the results were in, she had a three inch benign tumor. Understandably relieved but upset over the missed time from her unit Samek was able to spend Christmas with her friends and her dog, Goat, while in the states.

“But” she said “I felt guilty and was ready to get back.”

The doctors at Walter Reed insisted she have the tumor removed which most likely would mean she would not be returning to Iraq.

But in keeping with her strong will to finish a deployment she felt strongly about, she was able to convince the doctors she would have the procedure done just as soon as she demobilized. They agreed and she was on her way back to Iraq.

Now back with her unit Samek is doing what she came here to do and enjoying it. “I'm glad I came back. It's something I had to do”, she said. 

Operations Security

A program designed to protect information

In World War II, the Army would censor mail going to loved ones. They would black out sentences containing information that related to operations in the country.

This practice continued in Korea and in Vietnam, however with today's technology it's not practical to censor all communications. Email and cellular phones allow frequent communication between soldier and loved ones.

But I'm not a soldier, I'm a spouse, what information do I know?

The name of your Soldier's unit.
Type of unit (Engineer, Armor, MP, Infantry)
The unit's location (i.e. Baghdad, Tikrit)

When they are coming home
What your Soldier is doing (i.e.. patrolling in Najaf, daily convoy's to Kuwait)

What can I do?

- Know who you are talking to. Don't discuss information with just anyone.

--Fact: Several family members have received phone calls from individuals asking:

- What do you think of the war?
- What does your Soldier do?
- What is name of his/her

- Be careful where you talk about your Soldier.

--Fact: When one of the BDEs was returning, spouses were discussing date, time and location of the unit's flights at the checkout lines in local business establishments.

- Watch what you display.



-- To you this sticker means you miss your loved one, to a criminal it shows that you are home alone.

Protect Yourself and Your Soldier

From the Chaplain



As we near the end of our deployment, it is so very easy to become complacent and lose focus. However, listen to these words from Proverbs 14:23: "All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty." What captures my attention in this short verse is the phrase, "All hard work brings profit..." Do you realize this? One of our promises from God is that hard work has its rewards. As we diligently strive for excellence, God promises us that our work will not be in vain. Of course, sometimes it is difficult to see the reward because we carry around a negative attitude or the reward may not be immediate. Nevertheless, there are rewards for hard work. In the military, these rewards include things like awards, recognition, and promotion. Yet rewards do not have to be tangible. Often times God rewards us through a simple "Thank you" from our supervisor or just the knowledge of a job well done. But whatever manifestation our rewards assume, we must know our God is not one to curse us for working hard. He is one who blesses us for perseverance. The next time you feel like letting your guard down or "slacking" on the job, remember there are no promises of reward for the lazy or the complacent. Reward is promised only for those who place a premium on hard work.



Photo by MA3 Eric Wisner

Sgt. Jeff Wright, F Company, 3-116th Infantry, Air Force Staff Sgt. Phillip Kittleson, and Military Working Dog Kisma, a Belgian Malinois, demonstrate how Military Working Dogs use a training bite sleeve to simulate how they bring a suspect into submission.



"I can't git no lower, Willie. Me buttons is in th' way."



"This is th' town my pappy told me about."

Cartoons by Bill Mauldin ©Stars and Stripes

Thank You Cards

The 429th has created a website to capture and remember a small sampling of all the public support that was given to the unit in the form of cards, letters, care packages, prayers and well-wishes during the holiday season. The following website, <http://www.OperationThankYouCards.blogspot.com>, will help preserve some of those memories.

HOOAH!

THE PURPOSE OF THIS WEBSITE IS TO CAPTURE A SMALL SAMPLE OF THE HUNDREDS OF THANK YOU CARDS AND LETTERS THAT WERE DELIVERED TO OUR UNIT, THE VIRGINIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD 429TH BSB, 3RD BATTALION, 116TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, FOR THE HOLIDAYS IN DEC. 2007. THE CARDS WERE ORIGINALLY COLLECTED AT GOLDEN CORRAL RESTAURANTS AROUND THE U.S. AS PART OF OPERATION THANK YOU, "A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO INSPIRING OUR TROOPS." (THEY CERTAINLY INSPIRED THIS SOLDIER!)

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008

Alabama1

Dear U.S. Service Member,
Thank you for proudly serving in the United States Military.
I salute you for your service at home and abroad. I will keep you
and your family in my thoughts and prayers.
You are a great American!

Sincerely, Charlotte

City, State: MILLBROOK, ALABAMA

P.S. (Personal Message): THERE IS NO
WAY TO THANK YOU FOR
ALL YOU DO! PLEASE
KNOW THAT YOU ARE LOVED
AND APPRECIATED. GOD
BLESS YOU!



DISCLAIMER

No infringement of copyright is intended. This website is not affiliated with Golden Corral Restaurants.

Names have been altered where necessary to protect card writers from identity theft or harassment. Feel free to share these images or this website URL with friends and family.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The cards represent a general sampling of the earnest, funny, clever, touching and wacky sentiments that flew across our doorsteps. Although there isn't a card from every state included, we did receive a card or letter from every one. We regret that there was no way we could save every card.


Quotes of the Month

"Every citizen should be a soldier. This was the case with the Greeks and Romans, and must be that of every free state."

Thomas Jefferson

"There exist only three beings worthy of respect: the priest, the soldier, the poet. To know, to kill, to create."

Pierre Charles Baudelaire



Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act Provides Umbrella of Protection

Now referred to as the Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA), the new act was signed into law by President George W. Bush on 19 December 2003. The SCRA did not make any large changes to the SSCRA originally enacted in 1940, but was written to clarify the language of the original relief act, to incorporate many years of judicial interpretation of the SSCRA and to update the SSCRA to reflect new developments in American life since 1940.

In order to receive the benefits of the SCRA, in the case of National Guard Soldiers, you are required to be called to active duty authorized by the President or the Secretary of Defense for a period of more than 30 days. This includes title 10 orders and title 32 orders for purposes of responding to national emergency declared by the President and supported by federal funds.

Some of the general protections enacted and/or updated by the SCRA:

Service member has the right to stay court hearings to administrative hearings. The court is now required to grant at least a 90-day stay if requested by the service member. Additional stays can be granted at the discretion of the judge or hearing official.

6% interest rate cap on pre-service loans and obligations per year must be forgiven. The service member must request the lower interest rate, it is not automatic. Under the SSCRA creditors could argue that interest in excess of 6% was merely deferred, but the SCRA has taken away a creditor's/ lender's ability to argue against the lower interest and forgiving the extra interest amounts. For an example memo for requesting the lower interest rate, please see your S-1. You will also have to include a copy of your orders with the request.

Eviction protection from premises occupied by service members for which the monthly rent does not exceed \$2,400. This also includes the dependents of the service member. While a service member is protected under this act his/her dependents can not be evicted from prescribed premises so long as the premises is in the service member's name.

Termination of residential and automotive leases. Real property leases can be terminated by service members on active duty who are moving pursuant to permanent change of station (PCS) orders or deployment orders of at least 90 days. Automobile leases for use by service members and their dependents can be terminated if the service member receives orders to active duty for a period of at least 180 days.

States previously would increase the tax bracket of a nonmilitary spouse by adding the service member's military income, which increased the military family's tax burden. Under the SCRA states are no longer allowed to do this.

For more information please visit: <http://usmilitary.about.com/od/sscra/l/blscramenu.htm>

Or see your S-1 shop. 3^d BN, 116th IBC T points of contact are:

Sgt Brandon Reed brandon.w.reed@us.army.mil

Staff Sgt. John Maynard john.maynardjr@us.army.mil

Phone: 318-839-1001

Hours of operation: Mon-Sun 0830-1730

Promotions, Extensions and Awards



C Company
SSgt. Gustavo Sequiera Awarded the
Combat Action Badge



C Company
Pvt. Michael Simpson Awarded the
Combat Infantryman Badge



C Company
Spec. Estuardo Escobar Awarded the
Army Commendation Medal



C Company
Sgt. Jonathan Emenheiser Awarded
the Army Achievement Medal



B Company
Spec. Geoffrey S. Morris Awarded
the Army Achievement Medal



B Company
Pfc. Beck Awarded
the Army Achievement Medal



F Company
Sgt. Raymond Crowell Promoted
To the NCO ranks



In keeping with D Company Commander, Cpt. James Tierney's, knack for offering unusual settings for soldiers who wish to extend their enlistments, Sgt. Patrick Franks of second platoon decided he wanted to have his ceremony performed on the deck of the Navy's 34 foot patrol boat 604 at the SPORD. A prior service Marine, Franks performed his last extension in the Corps atop Mt. Suribatchi on the island of Iwo Jima.



B Company
Pfc. Kevin Nada Promoted



B Company
Sgt. Latanya Gaddy Promoted
To the NCO ranks



B Company
Staff Sgt. Patrick Wilson Promoted



B Company
Spc. Verlin Winters Promoted



Headquarters Company
Sgt. Chad K. Lebo
Extended for 6 yrs



F Company
Staff Sgt. Anthony R. Tippins Promoted



Headquarters Company
Sgt. Clay O. Lankford
Extended for 6 yrs

March MWR Schedule

DATE	DAY	EVENTS AT KNB	EVENTS AT ARIFJAN	TRIPS
1 MAR	SAT	Jazz Social@Movie Tent, 2000 hrs		
2 MAR	SUN	Latin Dance Lessons @Movie Tent, 1930 hrs		SC/AKM
3 MAR	MON			
4 MAR	TUE			
5 MAR	WED	8-Ball @Rec Ctr, 1930 hrs		SC/KT/MM
6 MAR	THU	Big Wheel Racing@MWR Stage , 1930 hrs		
7 MAR	FRI	Monopoly Marathon@Rec Ctr, 1930 hrs		
8 MAR	SAT	Price is Right@Movie Tent, 2000 hrs		
9 MAR	SUN	Latin Dance Lessons@Movie Tent, 1930 hrs	NBA Live '08@Zn6 Comm Ctr, 1900 hrs	
10 MAR	MON			
11 MAR	TUE			
12 MAR	WED	Spades@Rec Ctr, 1930 hrs		
13 MAR	THU	NCAA B-Ball@Movie Tent, 2000 hrs		
14 MAR	FRI	Bingo@Movie Tent, 2000 hrs	Women's B-Ball Tourney@Zn1 Gym, 1800 hrs 9-Ball Toruney@Zn6 Comm Ctr, 1900 hrs	
15 MAR	SAT	Sports Challenge@Gym, 1300 hrs		

1. **Minimum Requirements for MWR Tours:** O3 or above; Safety Officer; (2) E-7s' or above (can be Warrant Officer); (2) Shooters; minimum of (15) participants or maximum of (25). Arrangements must be made (3) days in advance of tour.

Requirements are the same for Free Camel rides (uniform of the day for Camel rides ACUs)

- Cultural Awareness Classes are mandatory every 90 days for E-7 and above. Classes held every Friday 0900-1100 in AJ
- Bowling Alley & Swimming Pool scheduled to open mid March
- Basketball Court opening; awaiting word from Kuwaiti's on construction of court
- Four Man Scramble Golf Tourney, Sahara Golf Club 6 April 08. Sign-ups start on 9 thru 18 March 08. Get Details at the follow sign-up locations:

AJ@Zn1 Fitness Ctr, Camp Buehring Fitness Ctr, Camp Virginia Main Fitness Ctr, Ali Al Salem @LSA Cardio Tent, KNB Fitness Ctr

- Unit Level Basketball League @ Zn1 Gym TBA
- Easter Basket Decorating @ Rec Ctr, On-Going from 1 thru Easter

KT = KUWAITI TOWERS (1 KD ENTRANCE FEE PER PERSON)
MM = MARINA MALL
SC = SCIENTIFIC CENTER
AKM = AL KOUT MALL

Don't be a statistic

Wednesday, February 27, 2008 **Kuwait Times**

10 US soldiers injured

A traffic accident between three buses near Ali Al-Salem base resulted in the injuring of three Filipino drivers and 10 US soldiers. The accident happened yesterday morning and the American soldiers were taken to a US army base for treatment.

KUWAIT CITY: A US soldier was killed and another was seriously injured in a road accident Sunday, the American military said.

The vehicle accident took place near Camp Virginia off a Kuwaiti highway, the military said in a statement that did not provide the names of the service members. It said the soldiers were evacuated to an emergency medical facility and one was pronounced dead upon arrival. The other is in stable condition.

This was the second fatal accident in less than a week. On Monday, one soldier was killed and two were injured in an accident on a highway here.

Kuwait has been an ally of Washington since the 1991 Gulf War that liberated it from a seven-month Iraqi occupation under

Continued on Page 36

Continued from Page 1

Saddam Hussein. US troops and equipment are pre-positioned in the country, which was the launch pad for the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq that toppled Saddam. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: A US soldier was killed and two others injured in a traffic accident in Kuwait on Monday, the US military said.

The soldier, assigned to the 1st Sustainment Command died from injuries sustained in a single-vehicle accident, the military said in a statement.

The name of the deceased soldier was being withheld pending the notification of the next of kin.

The two injured soldiers were evacuated to a Kuwaiti hospital and

were in a stable condition, the statement said.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

A Kuwaiti security source said the accident took place about 20 kms (13 miles) south of Kuwait City when a US military vehicle overturned on a road used by coalition troops.

About 15,000 US troops are stationed in Kuwait, which has served as the main transit point for coalition forces moving in and out of Iraq

Continued on Page 8

Continued from Page 1

since the US-led invasion of March 2003. (AFP)

US soldier hurt in mishap: A US soldier who was injured in a traffic accident on the Sixth Ring Motorway has been admitted to the US Army Hospital, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to a reliable source the soldier lost control of his vehicle and crashed into a cemented road divider. The source also said upon impact the vehicle overturned several times before coming to a halt.

Truck causes jam

A trailer truck belonging to the US army flipped under the Ghazali Bridge near Kuwait University. The accident caused a major traffic jam in the area for quite a while until the obstructing truck was cleared off the road. No casualties were reported.



Public Affairs Officer:

Cpt. Nevin J. Blankenship

nevin.blankenship@kuwait.swa.army.mil

839-1069

Public Affairs NCOIC/Photographer:

Sgt. David A. Begley

david.begley@kuwait.swa.army.mil

839-1056

Public Affairs Specialist:

Spc. Jason C. Kemp

jason.kemp@kuwait.swa.army.mil

839-1056